



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

June 13, 2011

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

I am in Austin Texas this week where I have the privilege to represent Idaho and participate in highway safety from a national perspective. This is an opportunity to learn best practices from others and also showcase the great highway safety programs we have here in Idaho.

Last week the Idaho Traffic Safety Commission (ITSC) met to review our upcoming Highway Safety Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2012. During the meeting this plan was approved and the Office of Highway Safety now forges ahead with implementation. If you would like a copy of this plan please contact our office.

Most of the ITSC members were recently appointed and this was a first meeting for many of them. It was a pleasure to meet and discuss highway safety for Idaho. Besides Chairman Scott Stokes (ITD Deputy Director) the members of the Idaho Traffic Safety Commission are:

- Chief Jeff Wilson, Orofino Police Department
- Brian Johns, Driver's Education Coordinator, State Dept of Education
- Judge George Hicks, Elmore County DUI Court
- Ginger Floerchinger-Franks, Idaho Trauma Registry
- Karla Bryan, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
- Major Ralph Powell, Patrol Operations Idaho State Police
- Senator Jim Hammond, Chairman – Idaho Senate Transportation Committee
- Representative Joe Palmer, Chairman – Idaho House Transportation and Defense Committee
- Sheriff Dave Johnson, Bingham County Sheriff's Office
- Stacey (Ax) Axmaker, Idaho STAR

The mission of the Idaho Traffic Safety Commission is to:

- Periodically review traffic safety problems in Idaho and develop effective plans for additional local-state cooperative activities;
- Recommend to the Director of ITD those agency programs and political subdivision programs to receive federal aid for highway safety in accordance with uniform federal standards;
- Advise and recommend to the Director of ITD future traffic accident prevention activities; and
- Carry out any other activities as may be required by the federal highway safety act of 1966 and any amendments to it.

The mission of the ITSC aligns with our Strategic Highway Safety Plan and supports our goal of *Toward Zero Deaths*.

Finally this past weekend reminds all of us the summer driving season is starting. It appears there were three fatalities over the weekend bringing our unofficial fatality count to 46 for 2011. Each one of these fatalities leaves behind life changing impacts to family.

Thanks to each of you for all you do for Highway Safety as we continue our quest to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in Idaho. Have a great week!

Brent Jennings, PE
Highway Safety Manager

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Launches Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Web Site

On the web site www.dot.gov/ost/dapc, DOT posted a link in the upper right hand corner to an important Department of Justice (DOJ) initiative that will provide resources to help the children whose parents engage in illegal drug use, trafficking or manufacturing.

The [Drug Endangered Children](#) (DEC) initiative is part of the *President's 2010 National Drug Control Strategy* and the Interagency DEC Task Force is lead by the DOJ to end the vicious cycle of drug endangerment and to protect the children. Part of what the DEC Task Force is accomplishing is the coordination of resources and the spreading of information regarding youth who live in or are exposed to an environment where drugs, including pharmaceuticals, are present for illegal purposes.

The DEC web site has just been publicly released and it includes a compilation of related resources and a toolkit of promising practices to assist States, local, and tribal governments in identifying, responding to, and providing services for drug endangered children.

You are encouraged to visit this site.

Blackfoot bans texting while driving

*By editor Blackfoot Morning News
Created 06/08/2011 - 12:15am By
MELANIE MOORE*

BLACKFOOT — The Blackfoot City Council has banned texting and driving within the city limits. The council unanimously approved the ordinance and waived all readings at their meeting Tuesday. The ordinance goes into effect



This planner includes English and Spanish tools for local and State social norming and enforcement campaigns.

- ★ Multimedia Ads
- ★ Earned Media Material
- ★ Facts and Statistics

The flash from fireworks is better than the flash from police lights.

It makes sense this Independence Day to designate a sober driver if you are traveling. Whether you are at a cookout close to home or traveling to see fireworks, drinking and driving don't mix.

Over the Limit. Under Arrest.

Get your July 4th Impaired-Driving Prevention Planner at: www.StopImpairedDriving.org



immediately.

The ordinance clearly defines texting as using an electronic wireless communications device to communicate using a text-based communication including text messages, instant messages or electronic mail.

A texting violation is classified as an infraction and is punishable by a fine of \$50.

Blackfoot Police Lt. Scott Gay said the officers will primarily use the ordinance as a tool to educate drivers about the dangers of texting and driving and said a distracted driving ordinance is something many of the officers want.

Councilman Chris Jensen said he is typically opposed to passing legislation that regulates an individual's behavior, such as seatbelt and helmet laws. But he said he is very in favor of a texting and driving ordinance because an innocent third party can be hurt by someone else driving distracted.

"I'm not one who believes it's the governments job to protect us," Jensen said. "I am very much in favor of this."

Virtue said the ordinance will at least send a message to drivers who may now think twice before texting and driving.

"It's clearly a safety issue," Virtue said. "This is more to protect someone else."

The ordinance does not apply to emergency services professionals using electronic wireless communication devices while operating an authorized emergency vehicle in the course of their duties.

At the meeting the council also approved fireworks permits, an airport lease agreement and met in executive session to discuss pending litigation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov

Date	Event Description
June 20, 2011	Ride to Work Day www.ridetowork.org
June 30-July 11, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
July 15-26, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
Aug. 3, 2011	SHSP – committee chair meeting – 9:00-12:00 at ITD
Aug. 7 – 13, 2011	National Stop on Red Week Federal Highway Administration http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/redlight/outreach
Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467